

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS NUMBERING)

CODEL BAKER

ANKARA PASS SECRETARY

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, EG, US
SUBJECT: CODEL BAKER -- DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI LEADERS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND DEFENSE
MINISTER PERES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATOR HOWARD BAKER
(R. TENN), REVIEWED CURRENT GOI POSITION ON ARAB-ISRAELI
NEGOTIATING OPTIONS, AFFIRMING THEIR PREFERENCE FOR
RENEWAL OF US INITIATIVE FOR BILATERAL GOE-GOI AGREEMENT
RATHER THAN OVERALL SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT. RABIN AND PERES
ASSESSED IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL SLASHES
OF GOI AID REQUEST AND ALSO REVIEWED GOI NUCLEAR POLICY
(SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

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2. RABIN AND PERES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATOR HOWARD
BAKER MAY 19-20, EXPRESSED THEIR HOPE THAT ARAB-ISRAELI
NEGOTIATING PROCESS COULD BE RESUMED THROUGH REVIVAL OF
US MEDIATION EFFORT FOR BILATERAL GOE-GOI AGREEMENT. THEY

EXPLAINED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WHY OPTION OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT INITIATIVE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE IN THE CARDS. RABIN EMPHASIZED THAT WIDE GAP EXISTED BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND ARABS ON THREE MAJOR ISSUES WHICH CONSTITUTED FUNDAMENTAL BARRIER TO OVERALL SETTLEMENT: (A) NATURE OF PEACE: (B) ARAB DEMAND FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDER: AND (C) PALESTINIAN ISSUE. PERES NOTED THAT "SOCIAL CHANGE" HAD TO OCCUR IN ARAB WORLD, I.E., A CHANGE OF MIND RE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL BEFORE OVERALL SETTLEMENT COULD BE POSSIBLE, AND THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD COME ABOUT WITHIN TEN YEARS.

3. ON INTERIM GOE-GOI AGREEMENT, RABIN EMPHASIZED THAT SECRETARY'S LAST SHUTTLE EFFORT HAD FAILED DUE TO DISAGREEMENT OVER DURATION OF AGREEMENT RATHER THAN OVER ISSUE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY DECLARATION. GOI, HE SAID, REMAINED PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. RABIN SAID THAT, IN HIS VIEW, US AND GOE ALSO PREFERRED RENEWAL OF THIS EFFORT TO ANY OTHER APPROACH. ISRAEL WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE, BUT NOT TO GIVE UP PASSES AND OIL FIELDS FOR ONE YEAR AGREEMENT. RABIN SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD WOULD HAVE TO DETERMINE SADAT'S POSITION RE DURATION ISSUE. IF GOE DOES NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION, HE SAID, IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT IDEA WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS PERHAPS HAD SERVED PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING TO SADAT THAT US COULD NOT SIMPLY PRODUCE GOI ACQUIESCENCE TO EGYPTIAN DEMANDS WITHOUT APPROPRIATE QUID-PRO-QUO. EGYPT DID NOT WANT ANOTHER WAR AT THIS TIME, AND THIS ALSO LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT SADAT WOULD RECONSIDER HIS POSITION, TO MAKE POSSIBLE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT.

4. PERES ALSO SAID THAT HE CONTINUED TO FAVOR STEP BY STEP POLICY. HE OUTLINED HIS "COUNT DOWN" APPROACH, IN WHICH PARTIES WOULD AGREE TO ADVANCE RE THEIR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES AND THEN PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT THEM STEP BY STEP OVER NUMBER OF YEARS.
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5. ON GOI AID REQUEST, SENATOR BAKER TOLD RABIN AND PERES THAT THERE WAS GREAT LIKELIHOOD THAT CONGRESS WOULD GIVE ISRAEL ONLY PART OF AMOUNT REQUESTED, AND ASKED WHAT GOI PRIORITIES WOULD BE. IN REPLY, PERES SAID THAT IDF PRIORITY WAS ACQUISITION OF 25 F-15'S. HE ADDED THAT, IN HIS ESTIMATE, IDF WOULD REQUIRE DOLS 1.5 BILLION AID ANNUALLY FROM USG FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS, IF IT WERE TO MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE DETERRENT. IF THESE AMOUNTS WERE NOT FORTHCOMING, ISRAEL'S DETERRENT POSTURE WOULD BE AFFECTED. ISRAEL IN ANY CASE WOULD WIN ANOTHER WAR EVEN IF USG WOULD NOT FULFILL ENTIRE AID REQUEST, BUT THIS IN THE LONG RUN WOULD BE MORE COSTLY THAN US SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING A CREDIBLE DETERRENT. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE OBSERVED,

IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE LANCE MISSILES.
VELIOTES

NOTE BY OC/T: CORRECTED COPY NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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